

Homeless cats and dogs are suffering and dying

Dumped — like litter

This sad dog is waiting for the owners who'll never return. People in a nearby house are feeding him. He won't let them befriend him. He's waiting. He's unwanted.

Bonnie Smith/The Salisbury Evening Post



HSUS says 'There are solutions!'

Last year more than 13 million homeless cats and dogs were euthanized at humane societies and municipal animal shelters. Thirteen million! The number is so large that it's mindboggling!

At a statistic, 13 million may be meaningless. But think of it another way. Think of the 13 million as individual animals with individual personalities — each with their own beating heart, each with their own wretched story of how they found their way to the animal shelter. They're not a group! Each one was an individual breathing creature whose life was ended because there was no home to go to.

The HSUS estimates there are between 80 and 100 million dogs and cats in the United

States, with kittens and puppies being born at the rate of 3,000 per hour. Public and private animal control programs cost this country as much as \$500 million a year. Much of this amount is spent feeding and caring for unwanted animals, and killing and disposing of the carcasses of the 80 to 90 percent that are not redeemed or adopted.

Parks and farms adjacent to urban areas suffer tremendous animal losses because of the predation and worrying of wildlife and livestock by free-roaming dogs.

Free-roaming dogs cause automobile accidents resulting in property damage, personal injury, and sometimes even death.

Littering of public and private property

with animal feces is a nuisance as well as an obvious public health hazard. New York City's 500,000 dogs deposit 20,000 tons of waste per year on city streets. The number one complaint to mayors in large cities is free-roaming pets.

Obviously, a lot of money, time, and energy is spent dealing with the overwhelming numbers of unwanted dogs and cats.

The story is the same all over the United States. There are five animal shelters in the city of Detroit, Michigan. In one year, over 90,000 dogs and cats are destroyed in those five shelters. There are more than 100,000 animals destroyed in New York City each year.



Euthanasia won't solve the problem
But, there's no choice in a world that has no room for this kitty. Unwanted pets are being euthanized at the rate of approximately 1,500 per hour in the U.S. But they're being born at the rate of 3,000 per hour.
Sumner W. Fowler from K. Flood

There are solutions

According to HSUS Accreditation Associate Kathie Flood, "There are solutions to the pet overpopulation problems." Flood outlined those solutions in testimony before a midwestern city council late last year.

First, you must have a good, working animal control program which includes five integral parts:

1. A strong, enforceable animal control ordinance which includes a lower licensing fee for altered animals;

2. A responsible animal control department capable of picking up and humanely handling animals at large;

3. A good animal sheltering facility which requires spaying and neutering of all adopted animals;

4. Public education programs which promote owner responsibility; and

5. A practical method of preventing the births of puppies and kittens, namely a spay and neuter program which is reasonable and accessible to the public.

The Humane Society of the United States recommends cooperative spay and neuter programs involving veterinarians and

animal welfare groups in local communities. If, for one reason or another, these programs fail, or if the public does not have access to that program, or if the taxpayers of a community demand it, a reduced cost spay and neuter clinic is an alternative which must be considered.

The greatest single cause of domestic animal suffering is overpopulation. Even though all of the residents of a community may not own pets themselves, *all* of the residents suffer because of the problems created by the pet overpopulation problem.

HSUS's Director of Animal Sheltering and Control Phyllis Wright promotes a 3-point program to solve the surplus pet animal problem. She calls her program **LES** which stands for **Legislation, Education, and Sterilization**. "If you combine these three elements," she says, "you'll have less surplus animals being euthanized, less tax dollars and humane society dollars being spent, less suffering on the part of unwanted animals, less animals propagating, and less cruelty."

Wright, who is probably the best known animal control expert in the country, spends much of her time giving workshops and seminars to animal control personnel in all parts of the U.S. She's constantly telling her students, "The most common irresponsibility I see is a dog without a tag."

The dog without a tag cannot be returned to its owner. The dog without a tag bound to be euthanized. The dog without tag has no life insurance. He's a dog without roots. Animal control people have no way of getting a tagless dog and its owner back together again. Thus, a strong license program which includes penalties for negligent owners is an essential part of the solution to our free-roaming pet problems.



When is a pet not a pet?
When we think of pets, we think of people and homes. When we think of pets, we think of companionship and love. Does this free-roaming cat fit the description of a pet?
Victor Scruby



Success Stories

Some local animal welfare organizations have found solutions to the pet overpopulation problem in their communities. These examples prove it can be done.

The nation's first spay and neuter clinic was opened in Los Angeles, California. There are now seven reduced cost spay and neuter clinics in Los Angeles County. There are also 34,000 fewer animals killed per year by the Department of Animal Control. The City of Los Angeles is now subsidizing approximately \$3 of each surgery performed. However, the decrease in the number of animals impounded since the inception of the program shows clearly that the clinics are, at most, a minimal cost to the city. By subsidizing spays and neuters at \$3 each, the city saves the \$20 cost of processing each impounded animal.

Palo Alto, California, opened a spay and neuter clinic in late 1972. In the first two years after the clinic was opened, there was a 40 percent reduction in the number of animals handled at the shelters. Part of this reduction is directly attributable to surgeries done at the clinic. The rest is due to increased public awareness of the pet overpopulation problem and lower licensing fees.

The Peninsula Humane Society, San Mateo, California, opened a clinic in 1973. The first year end operation figures show the success of the clinic. Total surgeries numbered 3,226 with total revenues of \$61,746. Since the start of the clinic and public awareness campaign, there has been a continuing decrease in the number of animals received at the Peninsula Humane Society animal shelter.

The Humane Society of Huron Valley in Ann Arbor, Michigan, opened a reduced cost spay and neuter clinic in 1975. The Humane Society of Huron Valley handled 18,000 animals in 1975, most of which were

What happens to the free-roaming, unwanted animals that don't end up at the animal shelter?

- They get run over by cars and trucks
- They're poisoned by accident and on purpose
- They're beaten and harassed.
- They get caught in traps.
- They suffer from diseases such as mange and distemper
- Few are found by caring people who give them a home.

What is The HSUS doing about the pet population problem?

The HSUS is working to solve the pet overpopulation problem — and its related miseries! Among the many things The HSUS is doing *today* are:

Promoting spay and neuter programs

Through public education, advertising, and professional development seminars for animal control personnel, The HSUS encourages the establishment of spay and neuter programs and clinics.

Sterilant research

Working in cooperation with a large drug company and a western university, The HSUS has developed and is testing an inexpensive male dog sterilant. At the present time the sterilant is in the testing stage under FDA supervision. When released, the one-time sterilant should cost less than \$5 per application. This low cost should enable shelters to sterilize every male dog that is adopted.

Accreditation program

The HSUS conducts an accreditation program for humane society and municipal animal shelters. To become accredited, shelters must work with HSUS accreditation personnel to establish programs, policies, and methods of operation which are designed to reduce the numbers of unwanted animals.

Professional development

Conducted throughout the country, these "Solving Animal Problems in Your Community" workshops help animal control personnel, humane society leaders, and others to improve their shelters and thus

humanely destroyed. In 1977 the HSHV handled over 14,000 animals and that figure decreased steadily through 1978. The clinic is breaking even. The clinic averages 20 surgeries per day and is booked solid for three weeks in advance. More than 10,000 surgeries have been performed at the clinic.

In 1976 the Vancouver branch of the British Columbia SPCA opened its spay and neuter clinic. The staff is comprised of four licensed veterinarians, four veterinary assistants, two kennelworkers, and two receptionists. There were 12,032 surgeries performed the first year. The number of pet owners waiting to use the clinic averages two weeks full operation of the clinic. Due to the sheer weight of numbers, there has been no need to stimulate public interest in the clinic. Extra telephones and staff have had to be installed to keep up with the calls. The effects of the clinic have been astounding. At the end of one year of operation, the animal control figures in Vancouver were:

1. Animals destroyed at shelters down by 17%;
2. Complaints of dogs running at large down 21%
3. Aggressive or biting attacks by dogs down by 41%
4. License revenues increased (dogs having surgery at clinic are required to be licensed).

Other points of interest: 83% of dog owners and 94% of cat owners interviewed said that the reason they used the clinic was because they could not afford to have their pets altered otherwise. The clinic was financially viable after the first four weeks of operation.

make life better for the unwanted pets.

In addition, The HSUS publishes the only periodical designed specifically for animal control personnel. *Shelter Sense* gives the professional animal control worker a platform for learning and sharing.

Investigating cruelty

HSUS investigators travel throughout the country helping individuals, local animal welfare organizations, and on occasions local governments develop solid evidence to support prosecutions, in particularly aggravated cases which have national implications.

Educational programs

In addition to the professional development workshops The HSUS also works with teachers through our National Association for the Advancement of Humane Education division. This division develops educational materials, conducts workshops and seminars, and distributes a magazine, *Humane Education*.

HSUS's *KIND* magazine for children is currently being used by classroom groups throughout the country. *KIND* has been speaking to children since 1959. Many of the young people who read *KIND* as children are now adult members of The HSUS and other animal welfare groups.

Developing legislation

The HSUS works on the local, state, and federal level assisting legislators and local animal welfare groups in the creation of legislation to develop government-assisted spay and neuter programs, leash and license laws, and other statutes which will have a positive effect on the free-roaming and unwanted pet problem. The recent liberalization of some of the restrictions on lobbying has helped The HSUS become a recognized friend to animals on Capitol Hill.

The HSUS has developed a model ordinance which local organizations have had great success implementing. HSUS testimony on the state, local, and federal level has also helped pass laws which will eventually have an impact on the pet problem.

TV & radio spots

The HSUS distributes radio and TV spots promoting pet ownership responsibility. These spots are played all over the country. Correspondence to The HSUS indicates that people are heeding our advice.



ROAMING PETS CAUSE REGRETS

The Humane Society of the United States
Washington, D.C.



Help The HSUS help the animals

Your donation of \$10 or more will help The HSUS continue the many programs we've initiated to curb the free-roaming, unwanted pet problem. Your contribution to The HSUS will go a long way toward finding the solution to pet and other animal problems.

Be a responsible pet owner. Keep your pet at home. Ask your friends to keep their pets home, too.

Remember, most of our animal problems are really people problems! We need to continue our commitment to the animals by reaching out to people — to convince them to take better care of their pets.

Use the post paid preaddressed envelope which accompanies this report to send your contribution today. The animals need you.



An accident waiting to happen

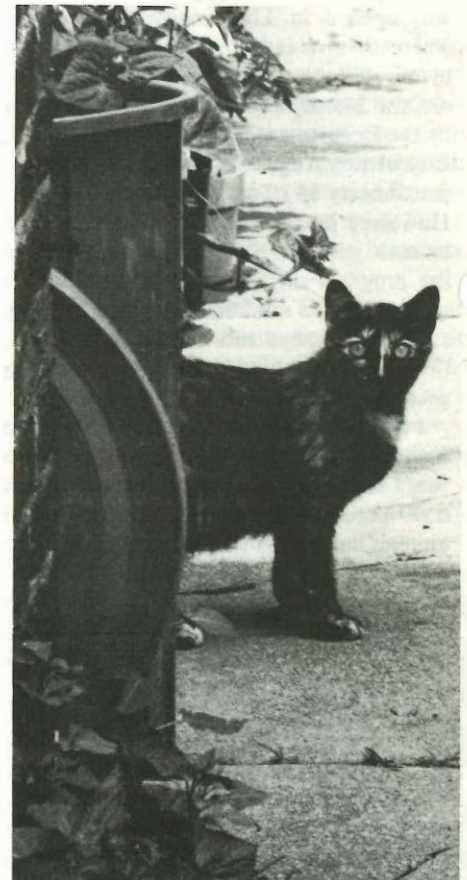
This homeless dog is making his daily rounds searching for food. He, or his parents, or their parents once belonged to somebody. This dog is no longer a pet — he's a statistic!

HSUS/Dantzler

Free bumper sticker

Make your contribution of \$10 or more to The HSUS do double duty. Ask for our new "Roaming Pets Cause Regrets" bumper sticker. The double duty will be gained when you display the bumper sticker on your car. Your contribution will support our programs. Displaying the bumper sticker will help *spread the word*.

Because not everyone is able to use the bumper sticker, you will need to request yours. Do this by writing the words **BUMPER STICKER** on the inside flap of the enclosed contribution envelope.



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